

ARTERIAL DRAINAGE (IRELAND).

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 11 April 1853;—*per*,

COPIES "of the TREASURY MINUTE, ORDER, or LETTER, bearing Date the 11th day of March last, and forwarded to the Chairman and Commissioners of Public Works in *Ireland*, directing said Commissioners forthwith to proceed to make Final Awards in all Cases of Arterial Drainage then completed:"

"Of all CORRESPONDENCE between the TREASURY and the said Public Works Commissioners, respecting the said Treasury Minute, Order, or Letter:"

"And, of STATEMENT addressed to the Lords of the Treasury, on behalf of certain Landowners and Occupiers interested in the *Ardes* Drainage, on or about the 23d day of March last, praying that the making the Final Award in the Case of that Drainage might be postponed until the 1st day of June; with the Correspondence connected therewith."

1.—EXTRACT from a Letter from Sir Charles Trevelyan to Mr. Griffith; dated 11 March 1853.

THE Chancellor of the Exchequer desires that immediate steps may be taken to make the awards on all the drainages which have been completed. Whichever further proceedings may hereafter be taken, it is indispensable that the public charge should be legally fixed, and placed in course of collection at the earliest possible period.

2.—LETTER from Mr. Griffith to Sir C. Trevelyan.

Sir,

Office of Public Works, 31 March 1853.

I HAVE the honour to submit, for the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, the enclosed letter received from Mr. George Macartney, on the part of the landed proprietors interested in the *Ardes* Drainage, who, from a long conversation I had with him this day, are very desirous that the final award for that district, which has been advertised to be made on the 12th of April, should be postponed until the 1st of June next.

The case is one of difficulty, in consequence of the excess of the total expenditure, amounting to 21,026 *l.* 14 *s.* 1 *d.*, as compared to the original estimate, which amounted to 8,388 *l.*

The object of the application is no doubt to await the result of the Report of the Commissioners of Arterial Drainage Inquiry, which will probably be made during the month of April.

I have further to add, that a deputation, similar to that from the *Ardee* drainage, waited upon me this morning, relative to the drainage of the *Borris-in-Osney* district, the expenditure on which has been 19,988 *l.* 13 *s.* 9 *d.*, while the original estimate was 6,896 *l.*; and they have determined to send a memorial to their Lordships, applying for the postponement of the final award for that district.

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Should

Should their Lordships think it desirable to accede to the prayers of these memorials, it will be desirable that this Board should be restrained from proceeding, for the present, with the final awards of the other districts, meetings for making final awards on which, are also to be held during the month of April; namely,

	Original Estimate.	Total Amount Expended.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Loughans - - - - -	1,802 4 6	3,939 13 3
Shinrone - - - - -	3,908 - -	8,391 3 -
Templemore - - - - -	7,224 - -	15,128 19 3

I have, &c.
(signed) *Richard Griffith.*

3.—ENCLOSURE in Mr. Griffith's Letter to Sir Charles Trevelyan, of 31 March 1853.

Sir, Dublin, Ardee Drainage District.

REFERRING to the request made by the deputation of the landowners likely to be aggrieved by the Commissioners of Public Works proceeding to make a final award in the above district, previous to the report of Messrs. Rendel, Cubitt & Griffith being laid before the Lords of the Treasury and Parliament, and the inability of your Board to comply with our request that it should recommend the award being deferred until the 1st day of June next, I have to request you will, for the information of Mr. Wilson and the Lords of the Treasury, state the nature of our proposition, and your reply thereto.

I have, &c.
(signed) *George Macartney*, on behalf of
Messrs. Singleton, Ruston, Dowagh, Adams & Co.

The Chairman of the Board of Works.

4.—TREASURY Minute, dated 5 April 1853.

WRITE to the Chairman of the Board of Public Works, Ireland, that it is indispensably necessary that the awards of all the arterial drainage works which have been completed should be made without delay, so as to fix and apportion the public demand, and to put the instalments in course of collection; and my Lords desire that he will take the necessary steps for that purpose.

5.—ARDEE Drainage Works, Ireland—Counties of LOUTH and MEATH.

A STATEMENT on Behalf of certain Landowners and others resident within the above District, dated 23 March 1853,

Showeth,

THAT, after certain preliminary proceedings and plans, estimates, and specifications for executing arterial drainage works upon the River Doe, had been submitted to them under the provisions of the 5 & 6 Vict. c. 89, by the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland, and their engineers, the necessary assents were given to authorise said Commissioners to proceed to execute said drainage works according to said plans, estimates, and specification; and the works were commenced in the month of June 1844.

That

That the sum for which the said assents were given was 8,388 *l.*, and the works were to be completed within three years; and the number of acres to be improved was set forth at 3,240 statute, which would yield a return on such outlay of 19 per cent.

That in the latter end of 1845, or beginning of 1846, said works were suspended, or nearly so, in consequence of the Commissioners of Works not having sufficient funds to carry them on, but were resumed soon after the famine commenced, and have continued from time to time in operation until the present year.

That in 1849, according to a Return made to Parliament, in March (No. 174), by said Commissioners, the Ardee River Drainage was set forth as completed, and the sum expended stated to be 11,110 *l.*, being an excess of 2,722 *l.* over the original sum for which the assents of the landowners had been given; but in a further Return furnished by said Commissioners of Public Works, and laid before Parliament in July 1851 (No. 575), the said works were therein reported to be still incomplete, and a sum of 15,061 *l.* then expended (including 2,940 *l.* on account of interest), with additional estimate of 5,339 *l.* as required to complete said works, although no increased acres of land had been improved by such additional outlay.

That complaints had been made to said Commissioners of the delay and extravagant expenditure in the execution of the works from time to time, and memorials were addressed to both Houses of Parliament, praying inquiry and relief from an excessive charge.

That in consequence thereof, a Committee of the House of Lords sat in the month of June last, and having reported that further information and inquiry was necessary, a Commission was appointed by the late Government, consisting of Messrs. Rendel, Cubitt & Griffiths, who during parts of the months of January and February visited several drainages, in order to report thereon; but as yet no such report has been made, as is believed, either to Parliament or Her Majesty's Government.

That it has been ascertained that the works of said Ardee Drainage have not been executed in accordance with the plans, estimates, and specification to which the landowners gave their assents in 1844, and since which time no additional assents have been given by them to authorise the continued expenditure.

That the said Commissioners of Public Works have undertaken the preliminary steps to make a final award upon the 12th of April next, and seek thereby to charge the lands of said owners within the district with a sum of 21,026 *l.*, in place of 8,388 *l.*, as set forth in their deed of assents in 1844.

That said owners have been assured, that should such final award be completed, their properties will then be liable for the entire amount of said 21,026 *l.*, and that without further legislation they cannot be relieved from any portion of it, whilst to suspend making the award for a certain time cannot militate against the right of the public creditor, and would afford an opportunity of laying their special case before the Government so soon as the report of Messrs. Rendel, Cubitt & Griffiths shall be published and made known.

The said landowners therefore respectfully suggest the justice and propriety of the Lords of the Treasury directing the said Commissioners of Public Works to suspend the proceedings for the publishing a final award for the Ardee Drainage Works until after the 1st day of June, and thereby afford a reasonable time and opportunity to lay their case at length before their Lordships for their consideration.

Carlisle Cluh, 23 March 1853. (signed) *George Macartney,*

On behalf of himself and said Landowners possessing property within the Ardee District.

MINUTE on the foregoing Memorial.

REFER to the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland.

Office of Public Works, Dublin,
24 March 1863.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to return herewith the reference of a Memorial, dated the 23d instant, from George Mauntnry, Esq., M.P., on the part of the landed proprietors of the Ardee Drainage District, praying the suspension of proceedings for publishing a final award for that district until after the 1st June next, and to state, that orders have been given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, through Sir Charles Trevelyan, that awards should forthwith be made for drainage districts, the works on which have been completed; and in consequence the legal notices for holding the award courts have been issued, and the award meeting for the drainage of the River Dee referred to in the Memorial being one of those districts, will be held on the 12th of April next.

I have, &c.

(signed) L. Horwath, Secretary.

ARTERIAL DRAINAGE (IRELAND).

COPY of SECRETARY LETTER, 24th March 1863, directing the Commissioners of Public Works, Dublin, to make Final Awards in all Cases of ARTERIAL DRAINAGE then completed; with Correspondence, Treasury Minutes, and State-ment on behalf of Landowners and Occupiers.

(Mr. Mauntnry.)

Entered in The House of Commons on the Printed
28 April 1863.

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